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USMISSION FAO ROME PRIORITY
USAID/RDM-A/BANGKOK PRIORITY

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR G; CA/OCS/ACS/EAP; EAP/EX; EAP/BCLTV; EAP/EP; INR;
OES/STC (PBATES); OES/IHA (DSINGER AND NCOMELLA)
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID/RDM/A (MFRIEDMAN)
USDA FOR FAS/PASS TO APHIS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA/AP (LSTERN)
USAID FOR ANE AND GH (DCAROLL, SCLEMENTS AND PCHAPLIN)
STATE PASS USTR (ELENA BRYAN)
STATE ALSO PASS HHS/OGHA (EELVANDER)
ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [PINR](#) [SOCI](#) [PGOV](#) [TBIO](#) [VM](#) [AFLU](#)
SUBJECT: VIETNAM: AVIAN INFLUENZA WEEKLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER
13, 2005

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

REF: A) Hanoi 2597 and previous B) Hanoi 2609

¶11. (SBU) Summary. There have been no new cases of human or poultry Avian Influenza (AI) reported since Mission Vietnam's last weekly update on October 6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) reported it hopes to extend the poultry vaccination campaign to an additional 38 provinces by the end of October. Embassy officials participated in a planning workshop organized by the Canadian Embassy and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on a new CIDA-funded Canada-Asia Regional Emerging Diseases (CAREID) project. The FAO and donors continue to update their assistance plans. Senior Official for APEC Michael Michalak met with WHO Resident Representative Dr. Hans Troedssons to discuss AI matters. The Ambassador met with MOH Vice Minister Trinh Quan Huan, who was recently appointed as the lead MOH official on AI issues (reftel B), and hosted a Town Hall meeting for Embassy staff on AI issues. An AI Town Hall meeting for private Americans will be held on October 19. The Embassy will welcome Secretary Michael Leavitt, who will be here to meet with GVN officials to discuss AI, October 13-15. End Summary.

No New Human Cases

¶12. (U) There have been no new human AI cases since August 29.

Poultry Vaccination Program

¶13. (U) MARD officials expect the delivery of previously delayed vaccines and equipment by mid October. They hope to extend the vaccination provinces to 38 provinces by the end of October.

¶14. (U) On a related matter, the GVN has chosen to focus its yearly disinfection campaign on AI. The initiative asks poultry farmers and slaughter facility owners to disinfect their farms in order to prevent an outbreak of AI. Funding responsibility lies with provincial authorities, therefore it is unclear how effective project implementation will be.

U.S. and Other Donor Assistance and Coordination

¶15. (SBU) Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung chaired a meeting on October 12 to brief donors on steps already taken to control AI and to inform the group of future plans. This includes a GVN contingency plan for avian influenza epidemics, and a human influenza pandemic as well as a program for emergency support prepared by the GVN, the UNDP and supporting UN agencies. MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat followed up on October 13 with a working level meeting during which the donors were briefed on both plans. The GVN contingency plan was presented in outline form. It calls for a number of specific actions geared to possible phases on an epidemic and is based on the WHO six phase system. Phat indicated that a more detailed plan would be given to donors as soon as it could be translated. He also said that a joint committee would be formed to exchange views with the donor community on a regular basis.

¶16. (SBU) The joint UN - GVN emergency support program as presented provides a framework and budgetary breakout delineating actions to be taken, GVN partners and associated

costs which will allow donors to better target their support. An outline for the first six months of emergency support was given to the donors, and the joint program was signed in a ceremony at the end of the working session. (Note: Mission will provide evaluation of the plans as more details become available. FAO officials involved in the joint program have confirmed attendance at the USAID organized planning meeting in Bangkok on October 19 and 20; they will bring program documents to the meeting.)

¶17. (SBU) USAID's regional AI public education program is ramping up. The contractor, AED, will be setting up its regional headquarters in Hanoi and has assigned Mark Rasmussen, who has extensive experience with USAID programs in Vietnam, as team leader. Project staff will participate in the planning meeting in Bangkok and visit Vietnam afterwards. In addition, the point person for USAID public private partnerships component will participate in the workshop and visit Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City afterwards as well.

¶18. (SBU) USAID and HHS officers participated in a strategic planning workshop organized by the Canadian Embassy and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on a new CIDA-funded Canada-Asia Regional Emerging Diseases (CAREID) project on October 10 and 11. The goal of CAREID is to reduce the threat of emerging infectious diseases to human security, regional stability and sustainable development in SE Asia and China. CIDA will provide USD 12.76 million through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) over a five-year period (Note: correction from reftel A. End note.) Participants in the workshop included officials from MOH, MARD, WHO, FAO, the French Embassy and the Pasteur Institute. Possible project components discussed were issues of surveillance, outbreak investigation, laboratory systems, bio-safety strengthening, emergency responses, public communications and advocacy, and donor coordination. A regional project implementation plan will be distributed for comment late this year, with an anticipated project launch date in April 2006.

¶19. (SBU) MARD reported that the U.K. Department for International Development has contributed funds to remediate inadequate vaccine refrigeration capacity at the district level in order to keep the vaccine appropriately chilled at all times.

Other AI Related Issues

¶10. (SBU) U.S. Senior Official for APEC Michael Michalak met with WHO Resident Representative Dr. Hans Troedssons on October 10 to discuss AI issues, including Vietnam's capacity for research and investigation, response to a pandemic, and quarantine (septel).

¶11. (SBU) The Ambassador chaired a Town Hall meeting on AI for Embassy staff on October 12. The Embassy's Health Attaché, Dr. Marie Sweeney, gave an overview of the GVN's plans for AI emergency preparedness and U.S. and other donor support. Medical Officer Karen McGuire-Rugh discussed how individuals can protect themselves and their families from exposure to AI, described symptoms and possible treatment options, and suggested steps to prepare for an extended period of shelter in place. Following the presentations, the Ambassador answered questions from the audience. The meeting was videotaped for use at ConGen Ho Chi Minh City. The DCM will chair a similar meeting for the non-Embassy American community on October 19.

¶12. (SBU) HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt will arrive in Hanoi on Thursday, October 13 to meet with Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and other senior officials to discuss AI issues. Accompanying the Secretary are U/S for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, CDC Director Julie Gerberding, USDA Deputy U/S James Butler, and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health Kent Hill, and others. The Secretary and his delegation will visit an AI lab, an AI vaccine production facility, health clinics, and a rural village that was affected by AI.

¶13. (SBU) The Ambassador took the opportunity during his first meeting with MOH Vice Minister Trinh Quan Huan, who was recently appointed as the lead MOH official on AI issues, to emphasize yet again U.S. concerns over AI preparedness in Vietnam and offer continued U.S. support (reftel B).

MARINE